

1895.

WILLINGTON URBAN DISTRICT.

Annual Report

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

To the Willington Urban District Council.

GENTLEMEN,

The following is my report for the year 1895 :—

VITAL STATISTICS.

	Population, 1891.	Birth-rate.	Death-rate.	Zymotic.	Infant Mortality.
Willington ...	... 5,107	43·07	20·75	2·15	195
Stockley ...	... 2,697	38·56	19·28	2·59	288
Whole District	.. 7,804	41·51	20·24	2·30	225

DEATHS.

During 1895 there were registered 106 deaths in Willington and 52 in Stockley, making a rate per thousand of 20·75 in the former, and 19·28 in the latter, the rate for the whole district being equal to 20·24, which is more than that of the previous year by 4·74. The greatest mortality in each district was in children under one year of age. One death occurred in the County Asylum in a person belonging to this district, and one occurred in Willington in a person not belonging to the district.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

In Willington there were 8 deaths from infectious disease in children under 5 years, viz. :—1 Measles, 3 Whooping Cough, 4 Diarrhœa and Dysentery. In persons above 5 there were Diphtheria 1, Typhoid 1, Erysipelas 2, Diarrhœa and Dysentery 1.

In Stockley there were 6 deaths in children under 5 years—Whooping Cough 4, Diarrhœa and Dysentery 2; and in persons above 5 years of age, Typhoid Fever 1.

INFANT MORTALITY.

There were 43 deaths in Willington among children under 1 year of age, representing 19·5 per cent of the births registered during the year.

In Stockley 28·8 per cent., and in the whole district 22·5 per cent.

PHTHISIS.

There were 4 deaths due to Consumption in Willington, over 5 years of age ; and 1 in Stockley also over 5.

OTHER LUNG DISEASES

caused 11 deaths in children under 5, viz. :—2 Pnenmonia, 9 Bronchitis, and over 5 years there were 5 Bronchitis, 5 Pneumonia, and 1 Pleurisy in Willington. In Stockley under 5 years, 3 Pneumonia, 5 Bronchitis ; over 5 years, 3 Pneumonia, 4 Bronchitis.

BIRTHS.

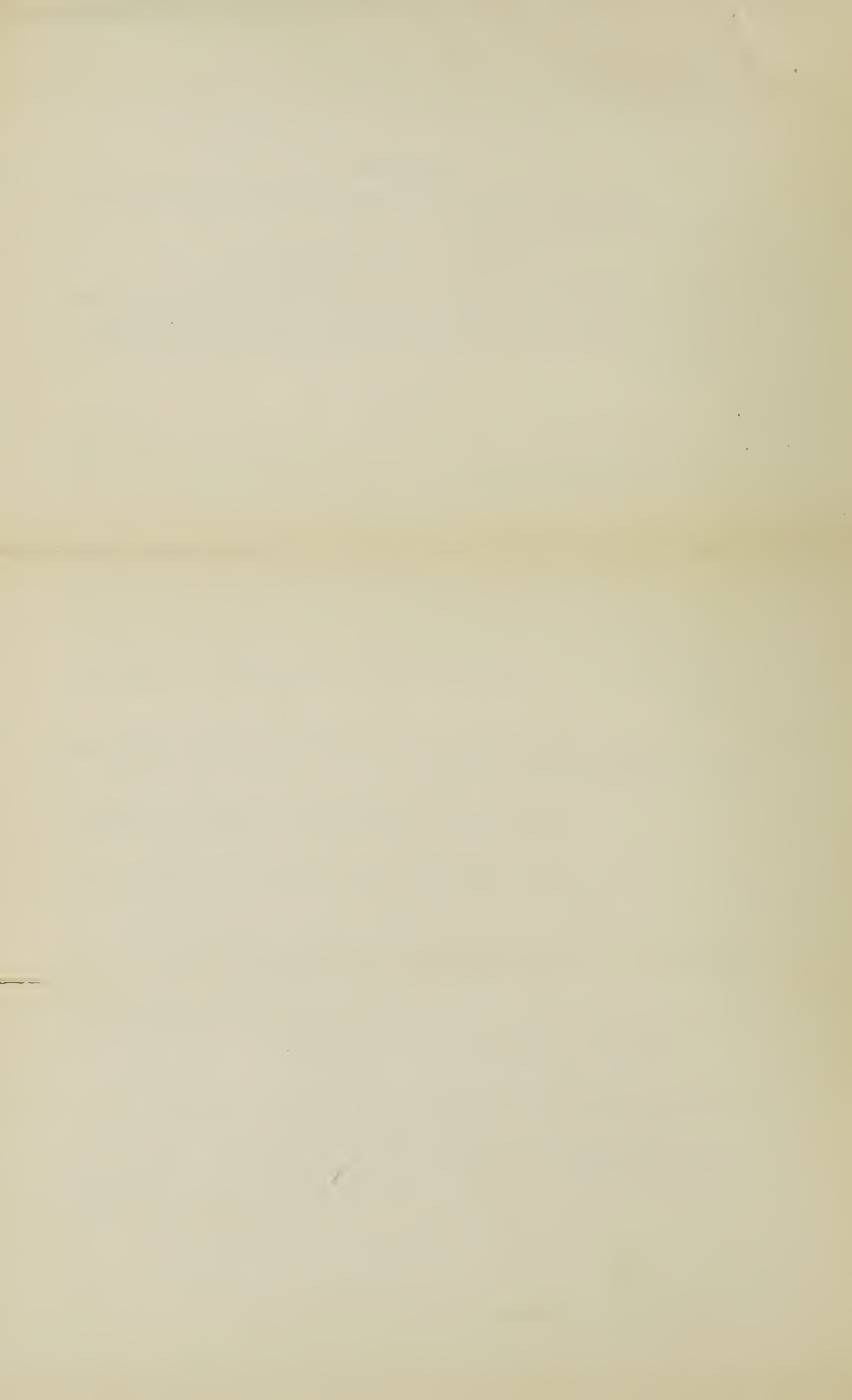
In the Willington District 113 males and 107 females were registered, making a total of 220. In Stockley 54 males and 50 females, total 104. The whole of the District 324, being 44 in excess of the previous year.

INQUESTS.

There have been 5 Inquests. 1 in January from death by exposure at Page Bank in a man ; 2 in May, 1 a lad accidentally crushed in the Coal Pit at Brancepeth Colliery ; the other a case of suicide by a man cutting his throat whilst temporarily insane ; 1 in October, that of a man accidentally killed by a fall of stone whilst at his work at Brancepeth Colliery, and 1 in November from Pneumonia, resulting from internal injuries received at his work, also in Brancepeth Colliery.

A1.—TABLE OF DEATHS during the year 1895 in the Willington Urban District, classified according to Diseases, Ages, and Localities.

LOCALITIES.	POPULATION AT ALL AGES.		Registered Births.	MORTALITY FROM ALL CAUSES AT SUBJOINED AGES.						
	Census, 1891.	Estimated to Middle of 1895.		At all ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and upwards.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8.	9	10	11
Willington .. .	5107	5265	220	106	43	15	3	5	21	19
Stockley	2697	2790	104	52	30	3	2	4	8	5
TOTALS .. .	7804	8055	324	158	73	18	5	9	29	24
Deaths occurring outside the district among persons belonging thereto .. .. .				..	..	..	..	..	1	..
Deaths occurring within the district among persons not belonging thereto .. .. .				..	..	..	..	..	..	1



A2.—Mortality from subjoined causes, distinguishing Deaths of Children under five years of age.

LOCALITIES.				Diphtheria.	Fever Enteric or Typhoid.	Erysipelas.	Measles.	Whooping Cough.	Diarrhoea and Dysentery.	Phthisis.	Bronchitis, Pneu- monia and Pleurisy.	Heart Disease.	Injuries.	All other Diseases.	TOTAL.
Willington' .. .. .	..	..	Under 5 ..	..	..	..	1	3	4	..	11	..	..	39	58
			5 upwards	1	1	2	..	..	1	4	11	3	2	23	48
Stockley .. .. .	..	..	Under 5 ..	..	..	..	..	4	2	..	8	..	..	19	33
			5 upwards	..	1	..	..	..	..	1	7	1	2	7	19
TOTALS .. .. .	..	..	Under 5 ..	..	..	..	1	7	6	..	19	..	..	58	91
			5 upwards	1	2	2	..	..	1	5	18	4	4	30	67
Deaths occurring outside the district among persons belonging thereto ..				Under 5 ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
				5 upwards	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
Deaths occurring within the district among persons not belonging thereto ..				Under 5 ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
				5 upwards	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..

TABLE OF POPULATION, BIRTHS, AND OF NEW CASES OF INFECTIOUS SICKNESS coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health during the year 1895 in the Willington Urban District of the Durham Union, classified according to Diseases, Ages, and Localities.

LOCALITIES.				New Cases of Sickness in each Locality coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health.			
				Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Fever. Enteric or Typhoid	Erysipelas.
Willington .. .. .	..	..	Under 5 ..	21	2	..	..
			5 upwards	17	1	7	9
Stockley .. .. .	..	..	Under 5 ..	18	..	..	..
			5 upwards	23	1	1	..
TOTALS .. .. .	..	..	Under 5 ..	39	2	..	..
			5 upwards	40	2	8	9

Notification Act compulsory in the District since April, 1891.

No Isolation Hospital in District.

Area and Population of the District or Division to which this Return relates.

Area in Acres	-	-	-	3795.138.
Population (1891)	-	-	-	7,804.

Death Rate—General, 19.55 per 1,000 population, estimated to middle of 1895.

„ Infant (under one year of age), 225 per 1,000 Births registered.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The notification of infectious disease is in operation in your district with very beneficial results. We still have no means of isolating such cases owing to the absence of an hospital, but the erection of such building is under the consideration of your Council, jointly with those of Auckland Rural and Shildon Urban Councils, the projected site being at Job's Hill, which is a central position.

DIPHTHERIA.

In Willington there were 3 cases of Diptheria. 2 under 5 years recovered, and 1 over 5, which proved fatal. In Stockley there was 1 case over 5 recovered.

INFLUENZA.

Influenza broke out in February, and continued to be very prevalent until May, causing 2 deaths. There was also another death from it in November.

MEMBRANOUS CROUP.

None.

MEASLES.

There was 1 case of Measles in Willington under 5, which proved fatal ; and there were only 4 known cases in Stockley, none of which were fatal.

TYPHOID FEVER.

In Willington there were 7 cases of Typhoid Fever over 5 years, with 1 death, and in Stockley 1 over 5, which also proved fatal.

SCARLET FEVER

There were in Willington 21 cases of Scarlet Fever under 5, and 17 over 5 ; and in Stockley, 18 cases under 5, and 23 over 5, with no deaths.

ERYSIPELAS.

In Willington there were 9 cases over 5, with 2 deaths ; in Stockley, none.

DISINFECTION.

The Council provides disinfectants gratuitously to infected houses, and some have been stoved after cases of infection have recovered.

VACCINATION.

All children born in 1894 have been vaccinated, or died unvaccinated.

GENERAL SANITATION.

CHARACTER OF THE DISTRICT.

The district of Willington, in addition to the village, includes the Brancepeth Colliery Rows, with a population of 5,107, having an area of 1451·759 acres. The district of Stockley is composed of Oakenshaw and Page Bank Collieries,



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and has an acreage of 2343·379, with a population of 2697. The soil generally is of a clayey character, with a gaudy stratum, about 20 feet down, sloping towards the river Wear, thus forming a good natural drainage.

POLLUTION OF STREAMS.

The combined districts are watered by the Willington Burn, Old Hall Beck, and Page Bank Beck, into all of which sewage is discharged and carried to the River Wear. At Page Bank Colliery, however, sewage is discharged directly into the river. Your Council have under consideration a notice from the County Council requiring you to purify the sewage before its passing into the river, and a scheme has been devised by your Surveyor, which it is expected will meet with the requirements of the County Council and the Local Government Board.

CHIEF INDUSTRIES

AND THEIR EFFECT ON THE HEALTH OF THE PERSONS EMPLOYED.

The whole district is taken up with coal mining, coke making, and the manufacture of various kinds of bricks. The mines are well ventilated and free from gas, accidents occurring are in the main due to fall of stone. The brick works are cleansed and whitewashed and inspected. The men and lads are generally of a healthy condition of body, and do not suffer from any special form of disease arising from their employment.

SMOKE NUISANCE AND OFFENSIVE TRADES.

Coke manufacturing is carried on to a considerable extent, but the improvement in recent years, by which steam is generated by the conveyance of the waste heat from the ovens to the boilers, and thence by tall chimneys, has cleared away almost totally any nuisance that would otherwise have existed.

BURIAL GROUND.

There is an extensive cemetery in a central position for the district, which is sufficient for the present and future requirements. Since my last report a chapel has been erected to accommodate 50 persons, which has been of great convenience.

DISPOSAL OF EXCREMENT.

There are a few W.C.'s, and in connection with most of the houses recently built ash-closets have been constructed, but the general accommodation of the district is the ordinary privy and ashpit, the contents of which are carted away at intervals partly to the Council's dépôt at Low Willington and partly used for the manuring of fields. In Stockley this also is done, the largest contractors finding their own tips.

SCAVENGING.

A portion of the district is scavenged by the Authority by contract. Dr. McLean Wilson, of the Local Government Board, on his inspection of the district, recommended in 1893 that the whole of this work should be done by the Local Authority. Last year I recommended the same to your notice, and I am still of opinion that this will be of benefit to the district generally.

HOUSE DRAINAGE.

These are made with sanitary pipes obtained from the Brancepeth works, and I believe all are now properly trapped.

BYE-LAWS.

These are allowed by the Local Government Board, founded on the model bye-laws.

COMMON LODGING-HOUSES.

There are two in Willington, both licensed ; one in Railway Terrace and one in Commercial Street—both are kept in excellent condition.

SLAUGHTER-HOUSES.

There are 12 registered slaughter-houses in Willington, and these are kept in a good sanitary condition.

DAIRIES AND MILK SUPPLY.

The bulk of the milk is supplied by farmers, though some of it is supplied by cowkeepers. The dairies in all instances have been inspected, and found to be in an excellent state of cleanliness, no disease of any kind being traced to this source.

COWSHEDS.

These are in a fairly good condition, though some of them are badly lighted.

DWELLINGS OF THE WORKING CLASSES.

These, with few exceptions, are good, being roomy and well lighted, built of bricks, and mostly have two storeys. Ventilation is obtained by means of doors, windows, and fireplaces. Overcrowding has not been found to exist, except in two instances. There are still some back-to-back houses in Willington and Page Bank. The privy accommodation is as already stated. Spouting generally is in a fairly good condition, and both at Brancepeth and Page Bank Collieries several streets have received attention, and I understand that it is intended to put the 12 houses comprising Albion Square into a more sanitary condition.

INSPECTIONS AND RESULTS.

Systematic Inspections have been made in company with your Inspector of Nuisances, and 87 informal written notices and 7 formal notices were served.

DIRECTION OF THE WORK OF THE INSPECTOR OF NUISANCES.

The Inspector receives his instructions from your Authority ; he also fulfills the duties of Surveyor and Rate Collector.

LEGAL PROCEEDINGS.

Nil.

NEW BUILDINGS.

A new house has been erected in Park Terrace, 2 in Clarence Terrace, 2 in Springfield Terrace, and 6 in Hall Terrace, all of which have been certified as being fit for habitation, the drainage to the whole being found satisfactory.

SANITARY IMPROVEMENTS EFFECTED DURING THE YEAR.

In Chapel Street, Willington, opposite to the Board School, channelling and ashphalte paving have been laid down on each side, making a great improvement. At Oakenshaw other 33 houses have been raised and widened, and new channelling laid down. Paving and channelling has been laid down to 12 houses in Park Street. An improvement has been effected by the erection of a high wall at the side of the roadway at the back of Cross Street, which will make a more secure roadway, and also give more privacy to the yards of the houses in that street.

MEAT INSPECTIONS.

Meat has always been found to be good.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT.

This is carried out by the Inspector to the County Council.

LIGHTING.

The whole of the district is lighted with gas with the exception of Page Bank, and the latter is now lighted by means of 9 oil lamps, which will prove of great benefit to the inhabitants of the village. 10 new gas lamps have been erected in Willington, and it has been requested that 2 lamps be erected between the top of West End Terrace and Boggle Hole Bridge.

WATER SUPPLY.

There is a good supply of pure soft water to the whole of the district from the mains of the Weardale and Shildon Water Company, but this is not allowed for the flushing of the drains, which I think should be periodically done in the summer months of the year.

PRECAUTIONS AGAINST FIRE.

In the month of December a fire broke out on the premises of Mr. Hunter, Chemist, High Street, and although your Council's Hose and Reel were soon on the spot, owing to the inflammable nature of the goods on the premises, it was completely gutted, but the police and your men succeeded in saving the premises on each side of it. As a result of this fire a key of the house containing the Hose and Reel has now been left at the Police Station, in addition to that at Mr. Wightmans', in Albion Place, on whose premises they are stored.

RECOMMENDATIONS.

1. I again recommend that a portion of the roadway at Page Bank, near to the river side, be fenced off for the protection of the public, the place being a most dangerous one.

2. I still am of the opinion that the removal of excrement and house refuse would be better undertaken by the Authority, so as to secure systematic cleansing at regular intervals.

3. That all unpaved yards should be paved.

4. That a public urinal be erected in a central position.

SUMMARY OF WORK DONE IN THE INSPECTOR OF NUISANCE'S DEPARTMENT DURING THE YEAR 1895, IN THE URBAN DISTRICT OF WILLINGTON.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS.					Number of Informal written Notices by Inspector.	Number of Formal Notices by order of Authority.	Number of Nuisances abated after Notice.
Dwelling- houses and Schools.	{	Foul Conditions	...	...	1	...	...
		Structural Defects	...	...	14	...	...
		Overcrowding	...	...	2	...	...
		Slaughter-houses	...	...	1	...	...
		Ashpits and Privies	...	...	38	...	...
House Drainage.	{	Defective Traps	...	..	9	...	...
		Other Faults	...	...	1	...	...
		Pigsties	...	...	3	...	...
		Animals Improperly kept	...	...	1	...	...
		Other Nuisances	...	...	24	...	...
TOTALS					...	...	94

PRECAUTIONS AGAINST INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Houses disinfected after infectious disease ... 2

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

R. E. BROWN, L.R.C.P.

